

June 6, 2013

The Honorable Gregg Harper  
U.S. House of Representatives  
307 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2458 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

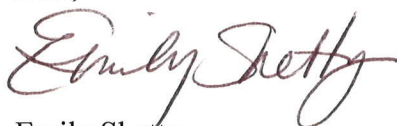
Dear Representatives Harper, Cole and Welch:

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. Each year, over 140,000 Americans are newly diagnosed with blood cancers, accounting for nearly 10 percent of all newly diagnosed cancers in the United States. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services. The mission of LLS is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and provide our patients with affordable, sustainable access to quality healthcare.

LLS is writing to support H.R. 2019, the Kids First Research Act, which will increase funding for pediatric medical research activities administered through the Common Fund at National Institutes of Health (NIH). H.R. 2019 provides much needed funding for crucial research projects, at a critical time in our nation's progress in medical research. In cancer research in particular, we are yielding unprecedented examples of precision based medicine that are fundamentally altering the way in which we will categorize and treat cancers going forward. These funds will help advance the important projects funded by the NIH in areas of high unmet medical need.

LLS understands and appreciates the tremendous challenges and fiscal constraints Congress currently faces and the need to identify a balanced approach to funding necessary national priorities. We appreciate the bi-partisan support that this legislation has received, and look forward to serving as a resource for your offices.

Best,



Emily Shetty  
Senior Director, Federal Legislative Affairs